

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) Hand-operated disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular broom sweeping machine having two disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular brooms that are mounted in a front area of the sweeping machine and can be driven to rotate in opposite directions with a motor drive, wherein, in addition to the motor drive for the disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular brooms, there is also provided driving means to transfer driving forces derived from forward motion of the sweeping machine to the disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular brooms and means for automatically interrupting a mechanical connection between the motor drive and the driving means.

2. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a separate motor drive and separate driving means are provided for each disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular broom.

3. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an overriding coupling which allows the disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular brooms to run ahead of the driving means is situated between the driving means which transmit the driving forces derived from the forward motion, and the disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular brooms.

4. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 2 wherein an overriding coupling which allows the disc-shaped ~~ei~~rcular broom to run ahead of the driving means is situated between the driving means which transmit the

driving forces derived from the forward motion, and the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom.

5. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an overriding coupling which allows the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms to run ahead is situated between the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms and the motor drive.

6. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 2, wherein an overriding coupling which allows the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom to run ahead is situated between the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom and its motor drive.

7. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 3, wherein an overriding coupling which allows the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom to run ahead is situated between the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom and its motor drive.

8. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 3, wherein at least one overriding coupling is designed as a free-wheeling coupling.

9. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 4, wherein at least one overriding coupling is designed as a free-wheeling coupling.

10. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 5, wherein at least one overriding coupling is designed as a free-wheeling coupling.

11. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 6, wherein at least one overriding coupling is designed as a free-wheeling coupling.

12. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 7, wherein at least one overriding coupling is designed as a free-wheeling coupling.

13. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the means for interrupting a drive connection between the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms and the motor drive includes at least one overriding coupling which responds when the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom is turning more rapidly than the motor drive.

14. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the means for interrupting a drive connection between one of the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms and its respective motor drive includes at least one overriding coupling which responds when the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom is turning more rapidly than the motor drive.

15. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the motor drive is an electric motor drive, and the means for interrupting a drive connection between the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms and the electric motor drive includes at least one overriding coupling which is held electrically in an engaged position.

16. (currently amended) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the means for interrupting a drive connection between at least one of

the disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms and its respective electric motor drive includes at least one overriding coupling which is held electrically in an engaged position.

17. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a sweeping roller which is aligned across the direction of travel is provided with a motor drive and with driving means with which driving forces derived from the forward motion of the sweeping machine can be transferred to the sweeping roller, and means for automatic interruption of a drive connection between the roller driving means and the motor drive of the sweeping roller are provided.

18. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 17, wherein an overriding coupling is provided between the roller driving means and the motor drive of the sweeping roller.

19. (original) Sweeping machine as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the means for interruption are held electrically in an engaged position.

20. (currently amended) A hand-operated disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom sweeping machine, comprising:

two disc-shaped ~~circular~~ brooms mounted in a front area of the sweeping machine;

a disc-shaped ~~circular~~ broom motor drive;

a driving mechanism; and

an interrupting mechanism,

wherein:

the motor drive rotates the disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms in opposite directions,

the driving mechanism transfers driving forces derived from forward motion of the sweeping machine to the disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms, and

the interrupting mechanism automatically prevents the motor drive from mechanically driving the driving mechanism.

21. (currently amended) A method for operating a hand-operated disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular broom sweeping machine having two disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms mounted in a front area of the sweeping machine, a disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular broom motor drive, a driving mechanism which transfers driving forces derived from forward motion of the sweeping machine to the disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms, and an interrupting mechanism, comprising the steps of:

rotating the disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms in opposite directions with the one of the motor drive and the driving mechanism that can drive the disc-shaped ~~ei~~reular brooms faster; and

~~interrupting automatically with the interrupting mechanism a connection~~
between the motor drive and the driving mechanism to prevent the motor drive from mechanically driving the driving mechanism.